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General Comment

[Edited by Gilbert C. Scoggin, the University of Missouri.]

In line with the traditions of classical training in Great Britain, Professor Gilbert Murray of Oxford is showing an active interest in the politics of his country. To the series of Oxford Pamphlets he has contributed a little brochure entitled, *How Can War Ever Be Right?* This is already in its second impression. More recently he has issued a booklet of 127 pages on *The Foreign Policy of Sir Edward Grey, 1906-1915*, also published at Oxford. Americans will find special interest in the chapter dealing with Mr. Morgan Shuster as treasurer-general of Persia.

In the Oxford Pamphlet mentioned above, Professor Murray says, "there is none of my own work into which I have put more intense feeling than into my translation of Euripides' *Trojan Women*, the first great denunciation of war in European literature." It was probably due in part to this fact that the Woman's Peace Party selected this translation of the play for presentation throughout the country last spring. While few would maintain that the *Trojan Women* is even among the best plays of Euripides, yet its widespread success before mixed audiences shows clearly that Greek literature contains much that is of vital interest to the modern world in connection with the difficult problems confronting us today.

The October number of the *Atlantic Monthly* contains an article by Mrs. Katharine Fullerton Gerould in which she discusses four chief causes for "The Extirpation of Culture." These are as follows: (1) the increased hold of the democratic fallacy on the public mind; (2) the influx of a racially and socially inferior population; (3) materialism in all classes; (4) the idolatry of science. She points out that two arguments brought against Greek in the schools are that it is hard and that it does not contribute to money-making; and she rightly notes that culture has never renounced anything because it was difficult or not immediately conducive to material gain. Her conclusion is that this "attitude toward Greek is only a sign of our democratic, materialistic times."

John D. Long died at his home in Hingham, Massachusetts, on August 28. He was a distinguished lawyer and held many places of public trust. He was a man of scholarly tastes, and his appreciation of the value of the classics is shown by his English translation of Virgil's *Aeneid*, published in 1879, while he was lieutenant-governor of Massachusetts.

Among the names of the early victims of the war was reported that of Dr. Siegfried Sudhaus of the University of Kiel. He was well known as the editor of the *Aetna*, published in 1898. He edited also a very useful and convenient text of the recently discovered fragments of Menander.

The *Educational Review* for October prints a public lecture delivered at the University of Pennsylvania by Professor William R. Newbold, entitled, "The Spell of Aristotle." In common with many other modern philosophers Professor Newbold received a classical training, and he is able to judge the ancients from a first-hand knowledge of their writings. He is of opinion "that no philosopher that ever lived has so fascinated the minds of men as has Aristotle."

Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, in his commencement address delivered last June at Radcliffe College, laid special emphasis upon the value of a classical training. "Without a knowledge of the classics any real mastery and thorough comprehension of modern languages and literatures is, in the highest sense, impossible." While emphasizing the fact that the classics can never hope to regain their old position of absolute supremacy in the curriculum, he thinks that now the pendulum has swung too far in the other direction. This address together with the one he delivered at the presentation of the Widener Library to Harvard can be obtained in book form from the Harvard University Press.

The fact that a Latin inscription is to be placed on the new gateway leading into the campus at the University of Missouri has led to much discussion among the students there. That opinion is divided may be gathered from the letter of a student, published in the college paper. This young scholar has no doubt as to the proper course to pursue. "For such inscriptions let us have English words, with American meanings, written in the Missouri dialect."

A portion of the fine private library of John C. Burton of Milwaukee will be sold at auction in the Anderson Galleries in New York November 8, 9, 10. Of special interest for the history of classical studies in America is the copy of Cicero's *Cato Major or His Discourse of Old Age*, published by Benjamin Franklin at Philadelphia in 1744. The translation is by James Logan, although often described as by Franklin himself and so designated on the London reprint of 1778. In the preface Franklin expresses his "hearty wish that this first translation of a Classic in this Western World may be followed with many others, and be a happy Omen that Philadelphia shall become the Seat of the American Muses."